

Proposed Arctic Sand and Gravel Lease Sale

Public Hearings

Anchorage II

1983

HEARING OF THE MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

BEFORE:

ROBERT BROCK, Presiding

* * *

The proposed Arctic Sand and Gravel lease sale tele-
conference was held on the 4th day of January, 1983,
before Laurele E. Harris, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska, beginning at the hour of 4:50 o'clock p.m.

* * *

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. BROCK: This is Bob Brock and I'm a supervisor with
3 the Minerals Management Service in Anchorage, and I must
4 apologize for the lateness. I do appreciate you people stand-
5 ing by. The legislature did have a vote or something along
6 that line taking place, and they took precedence and just
7 moved us back a little bit. So, I do appreciate you standing
8 by and giving your comments at this time. The purpose of this
9 teleconference is to gather further comments on the proposed
10 arctic sand and gravel lease sale draft environmental impact
11 statement. And we -- as your moderator said, we are on
12 teleconference with three locations, Barrow, Nuiqsut and
13 Kaktovik, and Barrow is standing by with its participants,
14 I guess have left and will be back in about ten minutes or so.
15 The governor's office in Juneau has requested to listen in on
16 the teleconference, and so they will also be on line. And
17 what I'd like to do to start with is to get the comments from
18 anybody on the draft EIS, then, as time permits--and we have
19 been told that we can stay past 6:00 o'clock a little bit. And
20 as time permits, we will be more informal and get -- answer
21 any questions that might come up, but I would like your comments
22 first, and then we can turn it into a discussion after everybody
23 has had time to be sure and comment. So, with that, I guess
24 that we will start with the participants, and I believe that
25 all the participants are in Nuiqsut at this time. So, if you

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1 want to start, we will start your -- taking your information.

2 Oh, yes, and would you also -- when you.....

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Most of these will be speaking the

4 Inupiat language.

5 MS. CARENAHAM: Excuse me, this is the moderator in

6 Barrow.

7 MS. MUES: Go ahead, Florence.

8 MS. CARENAHAM: Emma Mongoyak from the language commission
9 here at Barrow will be able to translate if you need that
10 service.

11 MR. BROCK: We appreciate that and yes, we would like that
12 service. We will have it -- we will record both. We will have
13 it recorded in the language, and then we will have it also
14 translated. But, if she would translate it for the purpose
15 of the people around the table we would appreciate it.

16 MS. CARENAHAM: Very well.

17 MR. BROCK: Would the people in Nuiqsut, when they test --
18 or when they make their comments, would you please spell your
19 name so we'll be sure and get that correctly, and go ahead.

20 MR. TAALAK: My name is Sam Taalak, Mayor of Nuiqsut, that's
21 T-a-a-l-a-k. First I'm going to do a quick rundown on -- in the
22 English, then I'll revert back to the native Inupiat language.
23 The proposal for sand and gravel as we see it is not too
24 disruptive on the dredging itself. You have a system or mode
25 of transporting is what we will (indiscernible). Barges, pipelines,

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1 the 20 inch with the 24 inch cutter type nozzle, your hoppers, we
2 assume your hoppers will be a big crane, 10, 15, 20 yards of
3 carrying capacity. Now, we are assuming all this 'cause your
4 papers don't state -- specify what they'll use. Our basic
5 proponents to protest are that (indiscernible) 20 hours a day,
6 10 years every summer. Your mode of transporting all this
7 sand and gravel, the area where you are proposing that will
8 be, we know, be harmful to the whales, plankton destruction
9 (indiscernible) gone, for the purposes of studies made by the
10 MMS 1980-81 Alaska offshore, December issue publication.
11 It has been studied and they have found out that the whales
12 will not be harmed by a placement or very aware acute to
13 open. Your studies have too much assumption. Your studies
14 are based on too much assumption. And you go down to jurisdictional
15 disputes on submerged lands. We have at the moment an ICAS, the depart-
16 ment interior act of court hearing, the ultimate overall juris-
17 dictional rights. I would like to propose a delay until the
18 coastal zone management, North Slope Borough is completed, which
19 will be probably a space of two years. For a short rundown,
20 you are stating that you will use the experience as you go
21 along with sand extractions. You will be basing your studies,
22 that is very wrong type and irreversible (indiscernible).
23 Now, you have a biological task force that you are proposing
24 includes every other state agency except that you have excluded
25 the North Slope Borough area representation. I would like to

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1 recommend that you propose funds (indiscernible) the North
2 Slope Borough area. Again, I would like to emphasize that
3 the proposition be delayed until coast zone management project
4 by North Slope Borough is completed, which would be two years.
5 For the sake of my people, I'm going to run this down in
6 their language. (Continues, in a native language.)

7 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, the next person that's going to be
8 speaking will be Ruth Nukapigak.

9 MR. BROCK: Okay, go ahead. Would you please spell that
10 name?

11 MS. NUKAPIGAK: N-u-k-a-p-i-g-a-k.

12 MR. BROCK: Okay, go ahead, please.

13 MS. NUKAPIGAK: (Speaking a native language.)

14 UNIDENTIFIED: The next person to speak will be Edward
15 Nukapigak.

16 MR. BROCK: Could I interrupt just a minute. First I'd
17 like to see if the translator in Barrow would just give us
18 a short summary. We will have this taped, we've got it on
19 tape and we will have this translated in verbatim, but could
20 the translator maybe give us just a short summary of -- kind
21 of a -- some of the points that were made. And then we'd
22 better -- we'll switch to Barrow and get two people there
23 then we'll come back to Nuiqsut for two people and keep going
24 until we get through everybody.

25 MS. MONGOYAK: This is Emma Mongoyak, translator here in

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1 Barrow. What Ruth Nukapigak said was: I am here to participate
 2 in what the people are here to say. I was born and raised
 3 in Nuiqsut, I know how to live and hunt here like my parents
 4 did before. I have a husband and kids who have lived here also.
 5 I don't like the way the oil drillers come in and start drilling.
 6 I fish and hunt and know how the fish are and where they are.
 7 I like the Inupiat way of life and always have. I don't speak
 8 too much English, but I can understand a little bit of English.
 9 Sometimes I wish I knew how to speak English real well. I
 10 hunt and fish out in the ocean like the seal, bearded seal
 11 and other sea animals. They will be using barges to haul
 12 gravel, there are a lot of fish in the water that I know about.
 13 Where will they get the gravel from? When I walk down the
 14 beach there's quite a bit of gravel near the ocean. I am
 15 hurt by the way the oil drillers come in and drill. The have
 16 also hurt my feelings. The fish I have found out are afraid
 17 of suds or foam. I have also seen oil in the water. I have
 18 also heard that when there's an oil spill that they clean it
 19 up with suds or foam. We who live in Nuiqsut I think our
 20 food is really going to change on what they're going to be
 21 doing. That's a brief summary of what Ruth said.

22 MR. BROCK: All right, thank you. Let's go to Barrow
 23 now and get a couple -- if the participants are there, could
 24 we get the names of the people that are there and that would
 25 like to give their comments and then we'll take two of them

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1 and then switch back to Nuiqsut, please.

2 MR. OOMITTUK: Good evening. My name is Othniel Oomittuk,
3 the last name, O-o-m-i-t-t-u-k. A native on the arctic region.
4 I am deputy director of the North Slope Borough ETO. I would
5 like to make a statement on the draft environmental impact
6 statement to the proposed arctic sand and gravel lease sale.
7 First, the draft itself, on the summary page Roman numeral
8 XIII, first paragraph, the date May, 1982 should be May, 1983.
9 In the future the date 1982 could be misleading for the document-
10 tation of the material. And on page 4-10, paragraph 3, I would
11 recommend that a primary subsistence resource mentioned not
12 just caribou, moose and sheep, since the lease is out on the
13 ocean, why not mention 'bowhead', duck, geese, fish and oogruk
14 as described on table 3-3. Again, this is for the benefit of
15 the people that are not familiar with our region. We are in
16 favor for deleting alternate 4 and 5 from the proposed lease
17 sale that Stamukhi, Shoal and Weller Bank area should not
18 be mined. These shoals have served their purpose in that area
19 as anchoring the shore-fast ice and create the opening where
20 vessels carrying cargos to the Prudhoe Bay can pass by. Also
21 the water from the dredge operation would also place the
22 'bowhead' from their normal fall migration pattern. It drives
23 the whales way out as whalers can't get to them with their
24 small whaling boats. This concludes my statement. Thank you.

25 MR. BROCK: Thank you. And could we have the next one

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1 from Barrow there also now?

2 MR. NUSUNGINYA: I am Percy Nusunginya and I am the vice-
3 chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I
4 have said before in the Anchorage hearing that the sale should
5 be postponed like -- 'cause you do not have enough information
6 and the information you have got in here is really sketchy.
7 So, therefore, the recommendation from the Alaska Eskimo
8 Whaling Commission is to delay the sale. That concludes
9 my statement.

10 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Let's go back to Nuiqsut now and
11 pick up two of theirs.

12 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, we have Edward Nukapigak.

13 MR. NUKAPIGAK: N-u-k-a-p-i-g-a-k. (Speaking a native
14 language.)

15 MS. MONGOYAK: Emma Mongoyak translating for Edward
16 Nukapigak Senior in Nuiqsut. He said: I will say a few words
17 in Inupiat. It is much better to look at the faces and argue
18 about things than through the teleconference. I am a
19 whaler and I still am. This is the path of what we eat and
20 our subsistence. My father led us camping around here since
21 I was small. What they will do will really hurt what we really
22 strive for to eat. What the white people want is always what
23 they get. From what I understand, the white people want to
24 eliminate us Inupiat people and our food. If they want gravel,
25 they should not get it from the paths of the animals that we

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1 eat. And he also stressed the fact that he will have more to
2 say when you go up to Nuiqsut.

3 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Could we have the next one from
4 Nuiqsut, please?

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, it will be Alice Woods.

6 MS. WOODS: (Speaking a native language.)

7 MS. MONGOYAK: Emma Mongoyak translating some of what
8 Alice Woods said in Barrow. She said: I teach in the hunting
9 patterns of our life-style to my children. How will our
10 descendants live and survive if our life-style is corrupted
11 by the drillers? I don't want any gravel taken from the
12 ocean when there is a lot of gravel on land. It is more
13 comforting to hunt our animals and live on them than to buy
14 food, any food from the stores that we have.

15 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Could we have the next two comments
16 from Barrow, please? Is there anybody else in Barrow that
17 would like to comment at this time?

18 MS. CARENAHAM: No. Are you getting a transmission from
19 Doctor Albert?

20 MR. BROCK: Negative, we didn't hear anything on that
21 one. Would you have Mr. Albert start again, please?

22 MS. CARENAHAM: Yes, just a moment, we're going to
23 switch microphones.

24 MR. ALBERT: My name is Tom Albert, is this coming
25 through?

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1 MR. BROCK: Yes, we hear you loud and clear now, Tom,
2 go ahead.

3 MR. ALBERT: Okay. My name is Tom Albert and I work with
4 the North Slope Borough in Barrow, Alaska, and in considering
5 the teleconferencing setup here, the mayor has asked that I
6 convey a brief message on his behalf, and that is that he
7 didn't feel that he should participate in this, but asked
8 me to make a few general comments. His feeling is that the
9 more appropriate form for this exchange of views is a face to
10 face meeting. So, let me go on and make a few comments then
11 regarding our position. The major problem I think we have
12 with a lot of this is that on-shore borough sites should be
13 utilized before marine sources are used. I believe there's
14 ample gravel supply on shore, and really good justification
15 needs to be given before moving into the marine environment.
16 Another bottom line, you might say, item is that under no
17 circumstances should dredging be permitted on the Stamukhi
18 Shoal, Weller Bank or other similar bodies that serve to
19 anchor ice. It seems to be almost irresponsible to propose
20 such action. We're really in favor of the Boulder Patch
21 deletion and feel that it should be supported. The Borough
22 feels that it should have some input into the review of any
23 siting of dredging or island construction sites. Probably
24 the single major concern that we've got with this marine
25 mining proposal is the increases in noise that will be put

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1 into the marine environment. There are many people up here
2 already concerned that the fall migration of the bowheads is
3 being displaced to seaward by the ever increasing sound levels.
4 There's also some concern that communication between the
5 migrating animals may become masked by increasing sound levels.
6 So, the overriding concern, I guess, is with noise. We would
7 sort of propose that there be no dredging, barging or dumping
8 of fill in the marine environment during the fall migration.
9 If this consideration is ignored, then we would request that
10 there be the following monitoring plans put into place.
11 place, one of which is to define precisely the fall migratory
12 path of the bowhead from Boulder Island to Point Barrow to
13 determine over a period of several years whether or not it's
14 being displaced. Another monitoring plan that should be in
15 effect is a noise monitoring plan to begin to get a handle on
16 the magnitude of sounds in the marine environment from indus-
17 trial sources and over the next few years just how much they
18 are increasing. Another monitoring plan that needs to be in
19 place is a behavioral study to determine if whales are
20 encountering the industrial sounds, what effect, if any, is
21 this having on them. The presumption up here is, among the
22 whalers, that it indeed already is having an effect, but let's
23 document it. The other is that the monitoring plan that needs
24 to be in effect is a good plan to detect the onset of the
25 migration and the termination of the migration. So, these --

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1 if dredging is allowed to continue during the fall migration,
2 I think it's only reasonable that these four monitoring
3 plans be in effect. Let me conclude by saying then that noise
4 is the overriding concern. I think most of us object very
5 strongly to the use of teleconference to get around the face
6 to face meeting of a public hearing. And, as I say,
7 more detailed comments will come through the mail. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. BROCK: Thank you, Doctor Albert. Is there somebody
10 else there in Barrow that would like to comment?

11 MS. CARENAHAM: No, there's no one else here at this time.

12 MR. BROCK: Okay, let's move back to Nuiqsut, then, and
13 pick up the next person there to comment.

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, here's Abe Simmons, Jr. from
15 Nuiqsut.

16 MR. SIMMONS: (Speaking a native language.)

17 MS. MONGOYAK: Abe Simmons, Jr. from Nuiqsut, this is
18 what he said: I think a lot of people don't like the idea
19 of the barges hauling gravel, and he's speaking also for the
20 people from Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Barrow and all over. And he
21 said that they should not even haul gravel through the barges.

22 MR. BROCK: All right, thank you. Can we get the next
23 person from Nuiqsut?

24 MR. AHMAKAK: My name is Mark Ahmakak, A-h-m-a-k-a-k. I
25 would like to briefly comment on the draft environmental

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1 impact statement. In your book it states that on your monitoring
2 system your proposals or suggested proposals, from what I
3 read in that book, I think that if you are going to go ahead
4 with this sale that you should utilize natives in which the
5 areas are affected by this lease sale, then utilize some of
6 these natives as monitors on some of your projects. Also on
7 sand and gravel proposed extraction, I believe, as Edward
8 Senior stated earlier, that you should consider hauling your
9 gravel from inland instead of dredging the ocean bed. I believe
10 within 10 to 20 years your companies, your oil companies will
11 no longer be here, but we'll still be here and I feel that you
12 should give us a chance to utilize and study what we really do
13 have on the ocean by means of fisheries, marine mammals and
14 whatnot. What I mean by that is I know that there are no
15 fishery studies that were supposed to be conducted on the
16 Beaufort Sea, but that didn't follow through because of some
17 bureaucratic red tape by the state. I believe if there were
18 some studies conducted by the state or other agencies on the
19 fisheries along the coastal sea, on the Beaufort Sea, you would
20 realize that all these fisheries and marine mammals are very
21 much closer to the shore where they feed on plankton. Those
22 are my comments for now, thank you.

23 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Just one comment there. We did
24 have studies on the fisheries also, but we can get more into
25 discussion after we finish taking the comments. Is there any

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1 other people in Nuiqsut that would like to comment?

2 UNIDENTIFIED: We have Harriet Taleak

3 MS. TALEAK: Joan Taleak, T-a-l-e-a-k. (Speaking a
4 native language.)

5 MS. CARENAHAM: Excuse me, this is the moderator in
6 Barrow, and we're only getting part of the transmission.

7 MR. BROCK: We only got part -- the last part of that
8 also, I believe. Could the interpreter in Barrow kind of
9 roughly go over what she heard and see if there's any addition
10 to that that the lady in Nuiqsut would like to make, because
11 I think the first part of the transmission did not come
12 through.

13 MS. MONGOYAK: I got part of it and her name is Joan
14 Taleak in Nuiqsut. She does not like the idea of the barges
15 hauling gravel, and she would like for you guys to be face
16 to face with her when --- for this meeting instead through
17 the teleconference. She also said if our people -- if our
18 Eskimo people run out of food to hunt, will they help us in
19 providing for our food and our needs? That's all I heard.

20 MR. BROCK: Okay, would the lady in Nuiqsut please -- if
21 she had more than that, would you please repeat that portion
22 because apparently we did have a breakdown there right at the
23 first of it?

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, she refuse to talk again, but she
25 mainly was concerned about the hauling of barges with gravel

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1 and her way of life from fishing since her childhood, she's
2 worried that there will no longer be no more white fish. And
3 that's mostly what she pointed out.

4 MR. BROCK: What was her name one more time, so we can
5 get -- and the spelling on that so we can get it correctly?

6 UNIDENTIFIED: All right. T-a-l-e-a-k.

7 MR. BROCK: Okay, the next person in Nuiqsut, please?

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Just one minute. Here she comes, just one
9 minute.

10 MS. LAMPE: L-a-m-p-e, Anne Lampe. (Speaking a native
11 language.)

12 UNIDENTIFIED: That's all she has to say.

13 MR. BROCK: Could you translate from Barrow, please, just to
14 give us a rough idea -- a summary of what she said.

15 MS. MONGOYAK: Okay, this is Emma Mongoyak for Anne Lampe.
16 She said: Even though I wasn't born and raised here, but I
17 live here and have hunted everywhere near here. It is not
18 right to haul gravel from the ocean. Even though we have said
19 no so many times, they go right ahead and do anything they
20 want anyway. That's all she said.

21 MR. BROCK: Thank you. Is there another person in
22 Nuiqsut that would like to comment at this point?

23 UNIDENTIFIED: No, I do believe we're done.

24 MR. BROCK: Okay, is there anybody else in Barrow at this
25 time that would like to comment?

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1 MS. CARENAHAM: No, we have no further comments at this
2 point from Barrow.

3 MR. BROCK: Okay, while -- anybody in either place that
4 would like to ask a question or anything for clarification, we
5 would be glad to try to answer that question, if you have
6 a question on the process or anything. We've got about ten
7 minutes left on the time here that we could answer any questions
8 that might be pertinent to you.

9 MS. KOVALSKY: This is Maggie Kovalsky, K-o-v-a-l-s-k-y.
10 Where would you barge this gravel from, if you were starting
11 to barge?

12 MR. ROBERTS: My name is Dick Roberts, Minerals Management
13 Service. There are probably several sites where they could
14 barge the gravel from. It would depend on the material on the
15 ocean floor, if it were sand and gravel at the surface, they could
16 barge it from there. If the material were covered with very
17 fine sediment, they would have to remove that fine sediment and
18 then barge it from that. All this material would be barged
19 from off-shore sites, farther than three miles from land. It
20 would not be right against the shore, it would be farther off
21 shore.

22 MR. BROCK: This is Bob Brock. And also it would be two
23 sites that would be for drilling platforms off shore. In other
24 words, all of the activity would be at least three miles off
25 shore, both the dredging and the drilling site itself. So, we're

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1 talking about entirely off shore at least three miles.

2 MS. KOVALSKY: Okay, another question I had was do they
3 plan to have the operation going during the fall whaling
4 season?

5 MS. GOTLEY: This is Judy Gotley from the Minerals
6 Management Service. The actual regulations and stipulations
7 for the leases have not yet been decided. We analyze many of
8 them within the environmental impact statement, and no final
9 decision has been made yet on them so, one of the things we
10 would look at would be some sort of restriction during those
11 two months. Most of the dredging will have to take place during
12 the ice free season.

13 MR. AHMAKAK: Yes, this is Mark Ahmakak, again in Nuiqsut.
14 I have a specific question pertaining to this draft environmental pro-
15 posal draft statement, as I stated earlier somebody said that they
16 had done some studies, fishery studies on the coastal -- the
17 Beaufort Sea. Can you tell me the time and date and who was
18 involved?

19 MR. BROCK: Tom Boyd from our environmental staff will
20 answer that.

21 MR. BOYD: Okay. I don't have all of that data in front
22 of me. I am -- my name is Tom Boyd, I'm a fisheries biologist
23 with Minerals Management Service. There had been a number
24 of studies conducted on the fisheries of the coastal environment
25 of the Beaufort Sea since 1970. More recently in the last, say,

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1 five years there have been studies conducted in the near
2 shore area and the Colville River Delta there have been
3 extensive studies conducted in 1980 by L.G.I. consultants for
4 the near shore fisheries in Simpson Lagoon. There have been
5 a number of studies conducted in Prudhoe Bay by the State of
6 Alaska, Department of Fish and Game and by consultants and
7 contractors for the Minerals Management Service, formerly
8 BLM. And many other studies have been conducted further to
9 the east. I would suggest that you contact our studies.....

10 MR. BROCK: We can get you a list of the studies that have
11 been done up there and forward that to you, if you'd like that.

12 MR. AHMAKAK: Yes, I would appreciate that. Also one
13 last comment, is also a question. I'm quite sure, are you
14 aware that ICAS is continuing their litigation on behalf
15 of the Inupiat within the Beaufort Sea areas, that's pertaining
16 to state and the federal government on -- and ICAS intervene
17 on that case that it was turned down by this judge, but it is
18 being appealed to the 9th circuit dis -- I mean, the supreme
19 court?

20 MR. BROCK: Yes, we're aware of that. Would you give us
21 your mailing address, sir, so that we can be sure and get you
22 this information?

23 MR. AHMAKAK: It's general delivery in Nuiqsut.

24 MR. BROCK: Okay, we will.

25 MR. BOYD: Bob, if he looks in the references in the

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1 draft environmental impact statement, a number of those studies will
2 be there.

3 MR. BROCK: Okay. There are a number of the studies in
4 the references in the back of the environmental impact statement.
5 It's behind what's called the bibliography. But, we will still
6 get you a copy and highlight those fishery studies, so that
7 you can definitely -- and then any of them that you would
8 like to know more about, well we can get you information on
9 that also.

10 MR. AHMAKAK: Sir, we've been only working with two copies
11 of the draft environmental impact statement. We have only
12 two copies in the village, and that's all we've been working
13 with.

14 MR. BROCK: Okay. Well, we will get you that information
15 and we will get you some additional copies also. Any other
16 questions there? Any questions from Barrow?

17 MS. CARENAHAM: We have no questions from Barrow.

18 MR. BROCK: Any other questions or comments from Nuiqsut?

19 UNIDENTIFIED: There's nothing from Nuiqsut.

20 MR. BROCK: Okay. At this time then, I would like to
21 thank Emma for doing the translating, and we will be in further
22 touch with you. And also I would like to thank both Barrow
23 and Nuiqsut for participating in this teleconference. And, if
24 there are no more questions or comments, we will conclude our
25 second teleconference, and thank you very much for your

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1 participation.

2 *****
3 END OF PROCEEDINGS
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3 STATE OF ALASKA) ss.
4

5 I, Laurele E. Harris, Notary Public in and for the State
6 of Alaska, residing at Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby certify:

7 That the annexed and foregoing pages numbered 1 through
8 21. contain a true, accurate and complete transcript of proceed-
9 ings held on the 5th day of January, 1983, before the
10 Minerals Management Service;

11 That the proceedings were recorded electronically and
12 thereafter transcribed by Akulaw Court Reporting verbatim
13 reporters;

14 That the original transcript has been filed with the
15 Minerals Management Service as required by law.

16 I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of
17 any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this
18 action.

19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
20 affixed my seal this 5th day of January, 1983.

21
22 *Laurele E. Harris*
23 Notary Public in and for Alaska

24 My commission expires 4/30/86
25



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Teleconference - January 4, 1983
Proposed Arctic Sand and Gravel Lease Sale
Tape 1 Side 1

Counter 001 to counter 031:

Introduction

Counter 032 to counter 100:

Sam Taalak, Mayor of Nuiqsut

(Making his comments in English.)

Counter 101 to counter 156 :

Sam Taalak explaining what he has said and what the teleconference is about.

They will be using barges to haul gravel from down there, and I have made my comments according to what I think. I am not against this because they will go ahead and do this; but since the equipment that they will be using like the barges, cranes, and pipelines for 40 hrs. a day for 10 years from 1983 to 1992, the use of the barges for 40 hrs. a day does not fit in with me. They have not said one word as to what harm and how much harm will be done to our animals, our whales. They have said what harm will come to the planktons that our animals eat but how much harm will be done is what they don't know. They have found out about the whales that are staying away from their migratory path by Umiat^(place name). The whale observers have found out and said that the whales are not coming through their migratory paths at all according to the study and (manuscript) made in December. The observers stating that they are one or two miles out of their migratory path. They did not say anything at all if they will do this. When the barges start running, the barges will dock right in front of Nuiqsut. We know how much damage this will do.

Also look at how much noise the barges will be making especially when the barges start running every year, every year, for ten years. We know for a fact, that whales will not come this way. This is why, I want them to hold off till the North Slope Borough Coastal Zone Management is all set which, I think, will be two years. They are planning to start (hauling gravel) in 1983. According to their report, "They will also study while they are working." this will not be suitable because our whales, our fish will already have died and this is a true fact. Also when the people who are letting them do this start making mistakes about our animals, massacres. Even at least one person who knows about the way to do things and who is involved with this should know and make it known. There are a lot of people that are here to speak, so I will stop for now.

Counter 161 to counter 286 :

Ruth Nukapigak from Nuiqsut. I will talk now and want to say something right now being here with the group that will give testimonies. I don't have any idea as to what this is about and just how this is to be done but I always know when the oil people come here I always argue with them. Having been born and raised (in Nuiqsut) before I know how to hunt and live up here. Having been raised here ever since I was born and also having parents that were Inupiaqs that lived here. Right now, I have a lot of children that reside in Nuiqsut, also a husband, and relatives. Even though I have not listened to the comments made by the people elsewhere and what we are to say, I am always disgusted in what the oil people are trying to do, this being my favorite place to live and survive in, where the Inupiaqs have lived. I also hunt and fish even though I am a woman.

I always hunt during the summer and have fished even up to now. I also got to know their characteristics, any kind of fishes that may be in the ocean and even in the river around here. I know about their characteristics. And how much we enjoy the food that the Iñupiaqs eat. I, myself, have always enjoyed the Iñupiaq way of life. When we were growing up here we did not have white people living with us or helping us but we lived the Iñupiaq way of life or have lived^(and still live) the Iñupiaq way of life. And then looking at the map that the oil people have set up, and not knowing how to speak and understand English but a little bit, I sometimes wish I could speak English but I can speak alot in Iñupiaq. I can argue with the oil people alot whenever they come here and (people) may have listened to me because once in a while I get a letter from them. What I don't like as^a person who has hunted by boat out in the ocean with my children or my relatives during the summer, like ugruks (bearded seals) even ducks, seals, and caribou, going as far as you want just to hunt these..., Right now I heard that they will be using barges to haul gravel. The area that I know about is called Amauliktuuq, the place where the barges will be docking. From time immemorial, it has been called Amauliktuuq. Then next to it is a place called Mitqutailaq. Then alongside that is Sanmiŋaruaq. These are the areas that I know. Then a little further down is a place called Pigu. Then after that is a place called Beechy Point. I know all these areas near the ocean having been raised here. But the fishes are abundant in the ocean, like whitefish (kaaktaq), lake trout (or arctic char), any kind of fish even the ducks are plentiful during the summer. I was thinking that they would haul gravel only during the winter but I heard that they will be using barges.

Then where will they get the gravel from? Where will they be getting the gravel from? When I use to walk along the shoreline, (I noticed) a lot of pebbles along the beach. These areas which are not used for habitats. Like for example, the gravel is not actually a habitat area near the ocean. But the islands that we use for our way of life from time immemorial. I always talk in the best way possible which would be beneficial. I, myself feel as if I have been strongly hurt since the oil people have come here to our land. It's as though they are hurting my own well-being because I love to hunt in this area, the hunting area of the Inupiaqs. I have heard also that they will be drilling way down under. Will they go further down? I also found this out while I hunting by the river, fishing on the river. Suds, (foam) the fish are afraid of suds. I found out the fish are afraid of suds while I was hunting. Whenever the water had any suds the fish would disappear. Also when you ^{threw} a piece of wood that is not good into the river the fish would steer away from it. I also know that the oil stays on top of the water. I have seen it and also know about it. It does not go under but stays on top of the water. Even mixed with water it won't go down. I have also heard and found out, that the drillers when they spill oil use chemicals that look like soap to cover it up. Covering it up where no one can see the oil that is on top of the water. The White people have made a lot of promises to the Inupiaqs but they also hide and lie about these facts from us. I wasn't thinking of being the first to speak, but when they pointed to me and there are alot of people that will speak, I have spoken. But when the oil people come I can wrack their brains (by arguing). Because I know how the Inupiaqs live and survive. I am not living

the white man's way of life but the way of the Iñupiaq way of life even up to now. The area that has been marked, the area that is right in front of us (Nuiqsut) right in front of ~~our~~ river..., I think this will have a greater impact of the people of Nuiqsut, on our food (and diet) than our neighboring villages. If, sometimes, they will let us give testimonies, I will speak again. For now, that is all I will say.

Counter 296 to counter 319:

Translation by Emma Mongoyak

Counter 325 to counter 352:

Othniel Oomittuk, Deputy Director of EPO

Counter 356 to counter 369:

Percy Nusunginya, Vice-chairman for Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

Counter 372 to counter 447 :

Edward Nukapigak, Sr. from Nuiqsut: I am Maniksaq. I will say a few things in Iñupiaq. Even though what I would like to say a few things in Iñupiaq. Even though what I would like to say will be a little hard to come out because I cannot see their faces, and it's more comfortable for me to argue with them face to face, having to argue in this manner is something else. Being a whaler ~~and~~ having joined the whaling crews a few years back, the animals are of paramount interest to me since the oil drillers have come here. I have always wanted the ^{ocean to be} ~~the~~ left alone, and only if they can't find anything on land then they should start (searching) in the ocean. Since this is in the migratory route of our animals that we love to eat, and our (government) have given us a limit (quotas) on our animals (that we hunt and eat)...., but right now this being right in the path of our animals and the planktons our animals eat, the only food that we don't have quotas on is

the fish. The fish is the only meat that we eat in Nuiqsut.

I have also made my residency in Nuiqsut, having been raised here and I also have travelled and spent winters from Pattaktug (Demarcation Point) all the way here with my parents till I became an adult. But there is no other choice to this matter, because when the white people have made up their minds to do things they go ahead and do it.

The fishes and the bacteria which the fishes eat will be greatly effected by the sound of the barges. There must be an abundance of animals that live in the water, and looking at the map, (the lease sale) is right in the path of our animals that we eat. After our white people (government) put a limit (quotas) and made us live by this, they, themselves are probably going ahead to killing all our animals, that is what we perceive the white people are saying. After they gave us quotas to live by which were not enough for the winter, but right now by killing off our animals they will get rid of all the Eskimos; I'm saying this because this is to my own understanding. This is what we perceive the white people are saying. If I could, right now, see this audacious person in front of me, I would throw a lot more words, and there's not much in arguing through this speaker. You all should come here sometimes and see how much you can bear if you all want to go ahead (with the drilling). (The words) are very hard (through the tele-conference), but if they really want to haul gravel there is an abundance of gravel on land, and (should not) get it from the migration path of our animals. Just as long as they do not destroy the fishes that we love to eat. But if you will be very careful in what you're going to be doing, I will tell you this, be extra careful and if you do anything drastic be willing to stop at any

point, even your job. I'm telling you this even though I've taken a little bit of your time since there are other people here waiting to speak. This is Maniksaq signing off.

Counter 469 to counter 512:

Alice Woods: I will speak in Inupiaq. I am willing to fight (for our animals) because I also teach in how to hunt and our descendants who have learned a lot in our way of life will not have nothing to lean on later on. Whenever the subject matter comes up, I always first think of our future generation, I wonder how they will strive to survive in the future without the animals that we eat and have lived on; some of the people are always unemployed and some of them will be employed but with the food prices going up, what we grow up with, and when I read across this subject matter, the future generation really worries us. I, myself do not want them to haul gravel from the ocean when there is a lot of gravel on land. If they get gravel from there, ^(in English) it will be years and years till we get fish after they were destroyed and how could we miss besides buying expensive food.) Those are the worries that get to me when it concerns (the migratory path) of the animals that we eat, especially when the times are getting hard now. It is more comfortable to be able to hunt for the food. (In English: That's my concern at this time.)

Counter 549 counter 647:

Tom Albert, EPO, on behalf of Mayor Brower.

Counter 666 to counter 684:

Abe Simmonds, Jr., Nuiqsut: I think a lot of Barter Island, Nuiqsut and Barrow are not in favor of this who are whaling during the falltime. I don't think the whales will be coming through our villages all the time if they start using barges to haul gravel.

I will approve, I will not be the only one who will approve but some of the people here may, if they do not haul gravel from the month of September to October. That is my comment from this end.

End of Side 1

Beginning of Side 2

Counter 000 to counter 029:

Mark Ahmakak, Nuiqsut: (Spoken in English.)

Counter 034 to counter 058:

Joan Taleak, Nuiqsut: I would like to say (lot of noise in the background; what she said is not recorded from 036 to 041) since we moved here. I do not approve of this, the fish and the animals (counter 043 to 047 is lot of noise, nothing recorded).... Will they help us after they have destroyed our animals and our fishes when they start hauling gravel? I will be happy if they come to Nuiqsut for a meeting, and I do not approve (of the teleconference) because I was raised here on animals. There is no doubt that they will wipe out all our white fish (kaaktaq), even the people from Barrow like to eat white fish or any kind of fish. Then after they have wiped out all our animals and fishes will they help us out? I am inviting (the person who is conducting this meeting through the teleconference) to Nuiqsut, so I can see him face to face. My name is Joan Taleak.

Counter 063 to counter 069:

Translation by Emma Mongoyak

071 to 077 :

Maggie Kovalsky, Nuiqsut translating the rest that was drowned out.)

Counter 092 to counter 106 :

Annie Lampe, Nuiqsut: Do I say my name? Annie L-a-m-p-e. Even though I was never raised here but we have always hunted during

the summer and winter all around this area here even down there.
We have hunted all kinds of animals here. It will not be right
if they touch the land down there, but they must have already
done this. Even though we have told them not to do this time
and time again, they go ahead and do it anyway. They, themselves
go ahead and do things after they have made regulations (for us).

Counter 125

Maggie Kovalsky, Nuiqsut, asking questions in English.

Discussion going on.

Counter 155 to counter 159:

Mark Ahmakak, Nuiqsut, asking a question in English.

End of Conference; Counter 221